

Administrator's Report
Board of Health Meeting of May 27, 2021

Report covers from 05/13 to 05/26/2021

Items requiring Board vote are noted with an asterisk ()*

A. Inspection Report Reviews

(1) 10 Lufkin Point Road, Marquis, Map 110, Lot 62 *

I have reviewed the Title 5 report for the inspection conducted at this property on April 23, 2021, by Michael Hale. The inspector has noted that the system is functioning as intended and passes the Title 5 inspection.

Recommendation: I recommend the Board of Health send a letter to the property owner stating we are in agreement with the determination of the inspector, Michael Hale, that the system passes the official Title 5 inspection conducted on April 23, 2021. The existing system is designed to accommodate a maximum of 3 bedrooms, or 330 gallons per day.

B. Septic System Design Plan Reviews

C. Building Permit Applications (informational only)

D. Complaints

(1) 19 Wood Drive, Roberts, Map 154, Lot 45

We received a complaint about standing water adjacent to the newly installed septic system at this property. This system, installed in January 2021, raised concern with neighbors about the impact of the raised SAS on the nearby wetland area. Review of MA wetland maps, as well as conversations with Ken Whittaker, Agent for the Conservation Commission, indicated that the wet areas were likely related to roadside runoff rather than intermittent or perennial streams resulting in jurisdictional wetlands.

Most recently (May 24, 2021), we receive email correspondence from a neighbor with photos of standing water directly adjacent to the SAS. This has been referred to the Conservation Commission for further review.

Recommendation: None at this time.

(2) 92 Southern Avenue, Perry, Map 140, Lot 54-2

We have received a complaint about the conditions of this dwelling, specifically regarding the significant trash on the property, as well as an attached screen porch that has been converted to a chicken coop. An inspection was conducted at this property with the Animal Health Inspector, in the presence of an occupant who was acting as property manager on behalf of the owner. This inspection revealed housing code violations including insufficient smoke detector coverage, lack of screens present on all windows, lack of electrical outlet covers, and other cosmetic issues related to

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building renovation. It was also revealed that there was building renovation/construction being done without proper permits.

Recommendation: None at this time. An Order to Correct was issued for violations of the MA Housing Code (105 CMR 410), and the matter was referred to the Building Inspector.

E. COVID-19 Updates

(1) Case Count

As of May 26, 2021, Essex has had 196 total confirmed positive cases and 108 so far this year. Contact tracing continues to be an issue, with positive cases not providing the identifying information for their close contacts or acknowledging the isolation requirements.

(2) Vaccine Status

The Cape Ann communities, as well as Hamilton, Wenham, Ipswich, Topsfield, Boxford, and Middleton have formed a partnership called the Greater Cape Ann Community Collaborative (GCACC) to provide regular, standing vaccination clinics in Rockport, Ipswich, and Topsfield; as well as the opportunity for the other communities to host pop-up clinics where they are needed and/or requested.

This formal partnership allows us to work around the minimum "order" size and, combined with an amended Pfizer EUA for temperature and storage requirements, will allow Essex to host clinics as needed. I have reached out to community leaders in Essex, including at the banks and churches, to gauge level of interest in those locations. We hope to have a series of smaller clinics as summer goes on to increase the vaccination rate of our residents and the residents in the neighboring communities.

(3) Youth and Amateur Sports*

At our last meeting (5/13/2021), North Shore Freedom baseball league was issued a fine for violation of covid rules, including lack of face coverings and lack of social distancing observed on Sunday, 5/9/21. The fine was paid at some point between 5/13 and 5/15, and I emailed Loren Weed from NSF on the morning of 5/15 acknowledging receipt and letting her know the league was free to resume use of the fields in Essex.

On Monday 5/17 we received correspondence from Attorney Carmine Lepore on behalf of NSF requesting that the fine be rescinded and returned to the program.

Recommendation: Discussion and review of the request to rescind the fine and return this to the program.